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Prepared By	Staff

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 4RD QUARTER ENDING December, 2010

Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant

The Workforce Development Council applied for and won a competitive grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for a Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant. The one-year, \$150,000 grant is one of the first activities in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (the healthcare reform act). A primary activity of the grant is to plan for an increase in primary care workers. The work of the Skill Panels will be an integral part of the planning process for the grant. Mahalo to Dr. Kelley Withy, who contributed substantially to this grant application and is a co-chair of the Primary Care Skill Panel.

Skill Panels in Healthcare

On October 5th and November 9th, the WDC in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the State Office of Career and Technical Education, The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii sponsored the state's first Hawaii Healthcare Skill Panels. Over 130 attendees participated in five panels: Nursing, Long Term Care, Technical Disciplines, Primary Care and Workforce Readiness.

The WDC Planning Committee included Signe Godfrey and Carl Hinson (co-chairs), Nani Medeiros, Allen Chung, Angela Meixell (CTE), Peter Quigley (UHCC), Steven Lee (DBEDT), and JoAnn Inamasu (Maui WIB).

Mike Brennan from Washington State's Workforce and Training Board (the WDC counterpart) was the facilitator and speaker. Mike is seen throughout the nation as the main developer of the formation of industry-specific skills panels. He informed the attendees of how Skill Panels work, and provided examples from among the 43 Skill Panels launched in Washington since 2000.

Strategic Doing Session

On September 15 the WDC, the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and the State Office for Career and Technical Education co-sponsored a session on "Strategic Doing," which featured Ed Morrison from the Center for Regional Development at Purdue University. Strategic Doing is "cooperation and collaborations to "link and leverage" resources to achieve common goals." The process is ideally suited for guiding collaborations among educational institutions, the public workforce system, economic development professionals and employers. Nearly 60 participants convened to learn the process and develop initial outcomes for the four healthcare areas of Nursing, Long-Term Care, Primary Care and Technical Disciplines, as well as for economic development (focusing on CEDS). The focus of the session was to prepare co-chairs, facilitators and other staff members for the Skill Panels being launched in October and November. The participants collaboratively generated outcomes relating to workforce development. Ed Morrison cited examples where use of Strategic Doing has led to dramatic changes in regions that have led, for instance, to the highest rate of STEM high school participation rate in the country for the region that includes Purdue University in Indiana.

Green Training Grant (SESP)

With the grant now reaching its first anniversary since it was awarded, the SESP team is moving forward with implementation of this three year grant. A important part of the grant implementation occurred this last quarter, when the training providers who are receiving monies from the grant were provided training in how to implement the grant. Because the grant requires all providers, as well as the WDC, to report progress to the Federal Government as part of the provisions of the Recovery Act ("ARRA"), training providers were given one-on-one training provided by Program Specialists Amita Aung-Thwin and Maile Horita.

The majority of State Energy Sector Partnership contracts have been executed. Others are expected to be finalized in the next couple of weeks. Following contract approval, Incumbent training with the labor training associations will begin. Meanwhile, the UH Community Colleges is finalizing course curriculum for the campuses as part of the team of training providers qualified individuals will be directed to. The SESP will be meeting again on 12/16, to finalize any outstanding approvals, as well as move forward with the implementation

WIA Performance, and WDC Annual Report to the Governor

The WIA Annual Performance Report was filed on October 1st. Bill Pierpont, Stan Fichtman, and James Hardway wrote the annual report, and LWIBs submitted narratives on their activities. From the Performance Report, the WDC's annual Report to the Governor is in its final stages of drafting. Taking elements from the Performance Report, along with presenting current and ongoing programs implemented by the WDC, the report will be published and presented in time for the opening of the 2011 Legislative Session at the State Capitol. The report can be viewed on the WDC website at www.hawaii.gov/labor/wdc

National Association of Realtors Hear About Workforce Housing

On October 12, Executive Director James Hardway spoke at the National Association of Realtors Conference about workforce housing, one of the four focus areas of the WDC. Hawaii faces a shortage of available workforce housing, especially for those who work in the tourism and service sectors. James ended with a call-to-action to all the attendees to address this critical need in our workforce.

College and Career Access Grant Award

As part of the partnership between the Workforce Development Council, the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the College and Career Access Grant ("CACG") has been moving steadily forward since an agreement between the three entities was finalized during the last quarter. With the agreement, the WDC moved ahead to publish a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to qualified entities, to develop software that will, once implemented, provide college-career minded individuals a one-stop on-line shop to determine the best course for their higher educational career.

With the proposals presented and judged, a \$299,000 contract to ConnectEDU was awarded for the creation of a computer-based College and Career Access System for high school students entering college and for older adults entering or re-entering college. The system will allow for students to map out a college plan that will lead them to career-based employment opportunities. ConnectEDU is a Boston-based company that uses information technology to connect students and data with colleges and career opportunities.

Departures and Arrivals

The WDC said farewell to Bill Pierpont as he, wife, Michiko and their new baby moved to Winnepeg, Canada. Bill was a Performance Specialist during his six months at the WDC.

Please welcome Dhiren Nayak to the WDC. He was hired as a program specialist to support the Health care Workforce Planning Grant.

The WDC also welcomes Dwight Takamine and Audrey Hidano to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Dwight was named the Interim Director of the Department by Governor Neil Abercrombie, and Audrey is the new Deputy Director, also named by the Governor.